

Appln No. 10/650,679  
Preliminary Amendment

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

#### Listing of claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Previously presented): Apparatus for transfer of containers between a land-based vehicle and a dockside location, comprising: a wheeled conveyor moved to a position at said dockside location; roller track means mounted on the wheeled conveyor for establishing thereon a central passage lane along which movement of the containers is effected between a pair of end passage lanes in spaced relation to the central passage lane; and container spreader means mounted on the wheeled conveyor for lateral guided displacement of the containers between said central passage lane established by the roller track means and the end passage lane along which the land-based vehicle may travel without obstruction into the wheeled conveyor.

Claim 2 (Cancelled):

Claim 3 (Cancelled):

Claim 4 (Cancelled):

Claim 5 (Cancelled):

Claim 6 (Previously presented): A method for transfer of containers between a land-based vehicle and a dockside location, comprising the steps of: positioning a common track passage lane of predetermined length along which the containers are moved; establishing two parallel

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spaced passage lanes on opposite sides of the positioned common track passage lane along which the land-based vehicle may approach and depart without obstruction; laterally transferring the containers between the land-based vehicle and the positioned common track passage lane at longitudinally spaced locations thereon; and transferring the containers to and from the positioned common track passage lane in a vertical direction at said dockside location between said longitudinally spaced locations.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): The method as defined in claim 6, wherein said land-based vehicle is a truck having a chassis on which the containers are carried; and said transferring of the containers in the vertical direction being effected by means of a marine terminal crane at the dockside location.